

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue to form a transmural lesion therein, comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle member;

first and second ~~mating~~ jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position to receive tissue therebetween and a second clamped position compressing the tissue, the jaw members having outer surfaces with opposed ~~mating~~ facing surfaces, each ~~mating~~ facing surface having a width;

a first elongated electrically conductive member carried by the first jaw member;

a second elongated electrically conductive member carried by the second jaw member;

the first and second conductive members each having a conductive area width of less than or equal to about one-third the width of its associated ~~mating~~ facing surface and being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source so that, when activated, the first and second conductive members conduct electrical current through tissue clamped between the jaw members.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 wherein the conductive ~~members are~~ area width is between approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm.

4. (Currently Amended) A tissue grasping apparatus for forming a transmural lesion in cardiac tissue, comprising:

cont. first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, respectively, to receive and compress tissue therebetween; each jaw having a width and including an elongated electrically conductive member and a clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the electrically conductive member and clamping surface of the other jaw; the face-to-face electrodes being connectible to RF energy power source for providing an electrical current through tissue clamped between the jaws, the electrodes having a conductive area width of less than or equal to about one-third the width of its associated jaw.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 5~~ claim 4 wherein the electrically conductive ~~members~~ area width is between approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm ~~in width~~.

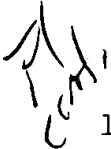
7. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein each jaw member has a facing, tissue-engaging non-conductive surface and the elongated conductive member is generally centrally located relative to such surface.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1 wherein each ~~tissue-engaging~~ facing surface has a generally centrally located slot extending along the jaw member.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of ~~claim 7~~ claim 1 in which each conductive member is at least partially disposed within the respective jaw member.

10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 8 in which at least a portion of the conductive member extends through the slot to contact tissue clamped between the jaw members.

11. (Cancelled)

 12. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which at least one of the conductive members defines an interior lumen.

13. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which at least one of the conductive members is a wire.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 in which at least one of the conductive members has a convex tissue-engaging surface.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 4 wherein each jaw has a facing, tissue-engaging non-conductive surface and the elongated conductive member is generally centrally located relative to such surface.

18. (Previously Presented) The ~~device~~ apparatus of ~~claim 17~~ claim 4 wherein each ~~tissue-engaging~~ clamping surface has a generally centrally located slot extending along the jaw.

19. (Previously Presented) The ~~device~~ apparatus of ~~claim 17~~ claim 4 in which each conductive member is at least partially disposed within the respective jaw and current flows through the slot to tissue clamped between the jaws.

20. (Previously Presented) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 18 in which at least a portion of the conductive member extends through the slot to contact tissue clamped between the jaws.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 4 in which at least one of the conductive members defines an interior lumen.

23. (Previously Presented) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 4 in which at least one of the conductive members is a wire.

24. (Previously Presented) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 4 in which at least one of the conductive members has a convex tissue-engaging surface.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) The device of claim 1 in which the first jaw member has a clamping area on either side of the conductive area of the conductive member.


28. (New) The device of claim 27 in which the second jaw

member has a clamping area on either side of the conductive area of the conductive member.

29. (New) A device for clamping and ablating cardiac tissue to form a transmural lesion therein, comprising:

a first handle member;

a second handle member;

 first and second jaw members associated with the first and second handle members, respectively, the jaw members being movable by the handle members between a first open position to receive tissue therebetween and a second clamped position compressing the tissue, the jaw members having outer surfaces with opposed facing surfaces, each facing surface having a width;

a first elongated electrically conductive member carried by the first jaw member;

a second elongated electrically conductive member carried by the second jaw member;

the first and second conductive members each having a conductive area width less than the width of its associated facing surface and disposed with a portion of the respective facing surface on each side of the conductive member, and the conductive members being adapted to be connected to an RF energy source so that, when activated, the first and second conductive members conduct electrical current through tissue clamped between the jaw members.

30. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein the conductive members are between approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm in width.

31. (New) A tissue grasping apparatus for forming a transmural lesion in cardiac tissue, comprising:

first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, respectively, to receive and compress tissue therebetween; each jaw having a width including an elongated electrically conductive member and a clamping surface in face-to-face relation with the electrically conductive member and clamping surface of the other jaw; the face-to-face electrodes being connectible to RF energy power source for providing an electrical current through tissue clamped between the jaws, the electrodes having a conductive area width less than the width of its associated jaw and disposed with a portion of the respective clamping surface on each side of the conductive member.


32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the conductive area width of the electrically conductive members is between approximately 0.12 to 0.6 mm.

33. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein each jaw member has a facing, tissue-engaging non-conductive surface and the elongated conductive member is generally centrally located relative to such surface.

34. (New) The device of claim 29 wherein each clamping surface has a generally centrally located slot extending along the jaw member.

35. (New) The device of claim 29 in which each conductive member is at least partially disposed within the respective jaw member.

36. (New) The device of claim 34 in which at least a portion of the conductive member extends through the slot to contact tissue clamped between the jaw members.

 37. (New) The device of claim 29 in which at least one of the conductive members defines an interior lumen.

38. (New) The device of claim 29 in which at least one of the conductive members is a wire.

39. (New) The device of claim 29 in which at least one of the conductive members has a convex tissue-engaging surface.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein each jaw has a facing, tissue-engaging non-conductive surface and the elongated conductive member is generally centrally located relative to such surface.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein each tissue engaging surface has a generally centrally located slot extending along the jaw.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 in which each conductive member is at least partially disposed within the respective jaw and current flows through the slot to tissue clamped between the jaws.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 41 in which at least a portion of the conductive member extends through the slot to contact tissue clamped between the jaws.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 in which at least one of the conductive members defines an interior lumen.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 in which at least one of the conductive members is a wire.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 in which at least one of the conductive members has a convex tissue-engaging surface.

47. (New) A tissue grasping apparatus for forming a transmural lesion in cardiac tissue, comprising:

first and second grasping jaws, the grasping jaws being relatively moveable between open and closed positions, respectively, to receive and compress tissue therebetween; each jaw having an elongated electrically conductive member in face-to-face relation with the electrically conductive member of the other jaw; the face-to-face electrodes being connectible to RF energy power source for providing an electrical current through tissue clamped between the jaws, at least one of the electrodes defining an interior lumen.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 47 in which each conductive member defines an interior lumen.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 47 further comprising insulation substantially covering the exterior surface of the

conductive member except for a longitudinally exposed area for
conducting energy through tissue clamped between the jaws.
